(e) the measures so far taken by Government to reduce the cost of generation?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The main fuel for the plant which is LNG is likely to be available only after March 2007. In the interim period, efforts are being made by Ratnagiri Gas and Power Private Limited to operate the plant on Naphtha. Since prevalent Naphtha prices are very high, the Government of India have given exemption from payment of customs duty for the import of Naphtha for use by the plant, so as to reduce its cost of generation on Naphtha and make it acceptable to Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited.

Lighting-up of villages through LEDs.

655. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the help of World Bank, it is proposed to light up a number of villages located for away from the grid power, in the tribal belt of Koraput district of Orissa, through LEDs (Light Emitting Diodes);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such a project was implemented elsewhere and has proved a success;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time-frame within which all the villages in the Orissa would be lighted up?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) As reported by Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (MNES) there is no proposal for World Bank assistance for LED based lighting systems in those villages which are located far away from grid power.

(c) No such project has been implemented.

(d) Does not arise, in view of reply at "c" above.

(e) "Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana" (RGGVY) aims at electrifying all the villages in the country by 2009.

Ultra Mega Power Projects

656. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to skip the expression of interest stage for the proposed 4000 Ultra mega power projects;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the IB Valley in Orissa and Krishnapatnam in Andhra Pradesh will be given benefit of this approach?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Power through Power Finance Corporation has taken an initiative for facilitating the development of a few 4,000 MW Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPP) under tariff based competitive bidding route envisaged Under Section 63 fo the Electricity Act, 2003 through project specific shell companies. Two part bidding process has been adopted for the selection of the final bidder. First part pertains to inviting Request for Qualification for short listing of the bidders and second part relates to Request for Proposal for tariff based bidding. Through invitation of expression of Interest (EoI) in earlier few projects, wider awareness among the domestic and international investors has already been created. In respect of later projects including pithead site at Orissa and coastal site at Krishnapatnam, Andhra Pradesh two part bidding process is envisaged without going through EoI stage. Notice for RFQ has already been issued on 12th July, 2006 in respect of Krishnapatnam.

Power Plants in coastal areas

657. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 9 power plants are proposed to be set up in the coastal areas of the country;